

B² displaying the device link page on a display device.

B¹ 3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

detecting a logical device name from a device like file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device button.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said network is a home network.

B² 11. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said graphical or textual information is a web page or an html page.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said display device is a browser based display.

Please add the following new claims:

B³ 13. (New) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;
- (b) creating a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;
- (c) displaying said menu on a browser based device.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

15. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

17. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein in step (b)(ii) creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device

21. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein in step (a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network.

22. (New) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;
- (b) creating a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;
- (c) displaying said menu on a browser based device.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (b) said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein in step (b)(ii), creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein generating the device link file includes the steps of:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

30. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a) detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network.

31. (New) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, comprising:

a detector that detects devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;

a browser for displaying said menu on a browser based device.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

33. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected by the detector, and the menu generator further associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

35. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and then creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

36. (New) The system of claim 35, wherein the menu generator creates the device link file by: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

37. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

39. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the detector autonomously detects devices that are currently connected to the home network.

40. (New) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

a detector that detects an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

a menu generator that creates a menu for selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;

a browser that displays said menu on a browser based device.

41. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said device.

42. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with a device that is detected by the detector, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

43. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

44. (New) The system of claim 42, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with a device identified in the device link file.

45. (New) The system of claim 44, wherein the menu generator generates the device link file by: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

46. (New) The system of claim 45, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

47. (New) The system of claim 46, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

48. (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the detector autonomously detects an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network.

49. (New) A method for a server device to communicate with a client device in a home network, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;

(b) receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said device characteristic data; and

(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of sending said device characteristic data to the client device;

step (b) further includes the steps of the client device receiving said device characteristic data and generating said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and

step (c) further includes the steps of sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the server device includes at least one controllable function.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising the steps of:
creating a menu for selecting said server device to activate said controllable function;
and
displaying said menu on a browser based device.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein:
the step of creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least a device control that is associated with the server device, and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device

control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the server device that is associated with the device control; and
the steps of displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:
generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the server device;
and
creating the device link page including said device control associated with the server device identified in the device link file.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:
associating a logical device name with the server device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:
retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

60. (New) The method of claim 51, further including the steps of detecting that the server device is currently connected to the network.

61. (New) The method of claim 51, further including the steps of detecting an active status of the server device currently connected to the network.

62. (New) A home network system comprising:
a server device;
a client device connected to the server device via a home network; and
a control protocol for the server device to communicate with the client device by:
sending device characteristic data in response to a first request signal generated by said client device;
receiving a second request signal requesting a web/page contained within said server device, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said device characteristic data; and
sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein:
the server device sends said device characteristic data to the client device;
the client device receives said device characteristic data and generates said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and
the server device sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

64. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the server device includes at least one controllable function.

65. (New) The system of claim 64, further comprising:

a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said server device to activate said controllable function; and
a browser displaying said menu on a browser based device.

66. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said server device.

67. (New) The system of claim 64, wherein:
the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least a device control that is associated with the server device, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the server device that is associated with the device control; and
the browser displays said device link page on a browser based device.

68. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

69. (New) The system of claim 67, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the server device; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with the server device identified in the device link file.

70. (New) The system of claim 69, wherein the menu generator generates the device link page by: associating a logical device name with the server device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

71. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said server device.

73. (New) The system of claim 62, further including a detector for detecting the active status of devices currently connected to the home network.

74. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the menu generator is a component of the client device.

75. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the browser is a component of the client device.

76. (New) The system of claim 65, wherein the client device includes said browser based device.--